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# CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (CTE)

Fact Sheet  
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## ***What is Career and Technology Education (CTE)?***

Career and Technology Education (CTE) is a program of study that prepares both youth and adults for a wide range of careers. These careers require varying levels of education — from high school and postsecondary certificates to apprenticeships, or two- and four-year college degrees. Students can add value to their overall education by completing CTE programs of study that offer industry-recognized credentials and college credit while in high school.

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## ***How is CTE different from vocational education?***

CTE evolved from vocational education's original and sole focus of preparing students for work immediately after high school. Today's CTE programs incorporate rigorous and challenging academic content standards and provide a sequence of courses leading to an industry-recognized credential or certificate, an associate or baccalaureate degree, or entry into apprenticeship programs. Today's CTE graduates are career and college ready.

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## ***What subject areas are covered by CTE?***

Maryland's CTE programs of study, which are constantly evolving due to the changing global economy, are organized around 10 career clusters:

- \* Arts, Media, and Communication
- \* Business Management and Finance
- \* Construction and Development
- \* Consumer Services, Hospitality, and Tourism
- \* Environmental, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
- \* Health and Biosciences
- \* Human Resources Services
- \* Information Technology
- \* Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology
- \* Transportation Technologies

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## ***Where is CTE offered?***

In middle schools, high schools, two-year community and technical colleges, and other options after high school. Middle school students engage in career awareness and exploration and start developing their high school plans that include both academic courses and career awareness activities. High school students participate in CTE programs with a strong academic core that prepares them to pursue college and careers. High school courses are supplemented by work-based learning experiences such as internships. Postsecondary options include apprenticeship programs, degree programs, private career schools, and industry-sponsored education and training.

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## ***What are some examples of careers that CTE students pursue?***

CTE students pursue career options within the 10 career clusters. Examples include automotive technicians, construction supervisors, animal scientists, turf grass specialists, financial officers, arts and graphics designers, executive chefs, hotel managers, network specialists, computer programmers, website designers, physical therapists, and emergency management/response coordinators.

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<b><i>Is CTE for students who are college bound?</i></b>	Yes, CTE provides a foundation of skills that enables high school graduates to be gainfully employed, full-time or part-time, while in college. Nearly 50% of Maryland students who completed a CTE program of study also met the entrance requirements for the University System of Maryland. CTE internships and work-related learning experiences give students a head start on a career whether it is doctor, nurse, engineer or biomedical scientist. Tech Prep programs link high school and community college curricula to help students transition smoothly to postsecondary education and careers.
<b><i>What opportunities are provided to develop CTE students' leadership, academic, and employability skills?</i></b>	Through participation in Career Technology Student Organizations, such as Future Business Leaders of America, DECA, FFA, Health Occupations Students of America, and Skills USA, students develop learning, thinking, interpersonal, technology, and communication skills, which are also known as Maryland's Skills for Success. By participating in leadership and technical competitive events, students apply their leadership, academic, and employability skills to solve real-world problems.
<b><i>How many CTE students are there in Maryland?</i></b>	Nearly 50% of all public high school grade 10-12 students are enrolled in high school CTE programs of study. There are also about 57,000 postsecondary CTE students attending community colleges in the state.
<b><i>How many CTE programs are there in Maryland?</i></b>	CTE programs of study are offered in all 24 school systems in the state, established in about 200 comprehensive high schools, nine career and technology high schools, and 16 CTE centers which serve students from several "sending" high schools. All 16 of the state's community colleges offer CTE programs as well. Students may also enroll in apprenticeship programs or pursue postsecondary CTE offerings at private career schools and colleges.
<b><i>How does CTE support economic and workforce development in Maryland?</i></b>	CTE programs in each school system are approved by the State Department of Education and must meet high standards set by business and industry and must prepare students for both college and careers. Programs of study are reviewed on a continuous basis to ensure graduates are meeting employers' expectations. Programs were developed with input from more than 350 representatives from business and industry and partnering state agencies such as Department of Business and Economic Development, Governor's Workforce Investment Board, and Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.
<b><i>How do students enroll in a CTE program of study?</i></b>	School counselors can provide information about locally available CTE programs of study. Information may also be available on the website of the local school system or school. When choosing a CTE program of study, it is important to consider how well the student's interests match with the future educational and career opportunities in any given field of preparation. Completing a CTE program of study is one way for students to meet Maryland's high school graduation requirements.
<b><i>How can I learn more about CTE?</i></b>	For more information, contact the Division of Career and College Readiness, Maryland State Department of Education, 410-767-0170.